

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS ROUND 5 2018–2021

### CENTERSTONE PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FLOURISH

**LEAD AGENCY:** Centerstone of Illinois, Inc.

**LOCATION:** West Frankfort, IL

**PROGRAM FUNDING:** \$745,173.00

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA:** Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington, and Williamson Counties

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION:** Region 5

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED:** IL District IL-12

### BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Centerstone of Illinois, Inc., is implementing Centerstone Partnership to Help Children and Families Flourish (Flourish) to increase well-being, improve permanency, and enhance the safety of children who are in or at risk of out-of-home placement due to parent/caretaker substance abuse, through a Regional Partnership collaboration in eight southern rural Illinois counties. Flourish will: (1) establish regional collaboration among child- and family-serving agencies including the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), criminal justice agencies, health departments, and school districts; (2) expand or enhance evidence-based trauma-informed substance use disorder treatment and coordinate prevention/recovery supports for the target population; and (3) implement evidence-based strategies including Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for participating children paired with the Nurturing Parenting Program or providing Strengthening Families Program for participating adults, assigned through randomized assignment. Centerstone also is convening an Advisory Council including the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), project partners, as well as parents/caretakers, key community professionals to guide implementation, progress, collaboration, and sustainability of the project. Flourish services include screening/assessment; case management, individual and family counseling, peer support services, cross-training activities, and outreach, engagement, and linkages to supportive services. Flourish is also integrating new assessment tools into their processes. Data-sharing protocols across participating agencies assist in monitoring outcomes and to ensure consistent data collection across systems. A comprehensive evaluation will assess effectiveness of project strategies and models, documentation of fidelity, process outcomes, cost effectiveness, followup data, and development of a service model worthy of replication across the state and nation.

### TARGET POPULATION AND PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED

The grantee will serve families with children (any age) in or at risk of out-of-home placement due to the effects of parental substance abuse in the eight identified counties.

The project will serve 104 families over the 3-year period (year 1:26; years 2–3: 39 annually) within the eight counties in the Southern Region of DCFS.

## MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- GOAL 1:** Enhance and expand regional collaborative infrastructure/capacity to meet a broad range of needs for families involved with both substance abuse treatment and the child welfare system.
- GOAL 2:** Establish and implement an evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally competent, community-based continuum of outreach, treatments, education/counseling, and supportive services for children and families.
- GOAL 3:** Improve outcomes of participating children/adolescents related to safety, permanency, well-being, and substance abuse as measured at intake, discharge, and 12 months post-intake.
- GOAL 4:** Increase family functioning and stability, as measured at intake, discharge, and 12 months post-intake.
- GOAL 5:** Improve adult participant outcomes related to substance abuse and trauma, as measured at intake, discharge, and 12 months post-intake.
- GOAL 6:** Develop and disseminate a thoroughly documented service model for replication across the state and nation.

## MAJOR PROGRAM SERVICES

- **Case Management and Case Conferencing**
  - Intensive/Coordinated Case Management
- **Wraparound and In-Home Services**
  - Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Comprehensive Services
- **Parenting/Family Strengthening**
  - Nurturing Parenting Program
  - Strengthening Families Program
- **Family Therapy/Counseling**
  - Traditional/Short Term
  - Intensive/Long Term
- **Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults**
  - Mental Health Services
  - Psychiatric Care Including Medication Management
  - Trauma-Informed Services
  - Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (for children)

## PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **Child Welfare**
  - Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
  - Child Advocacy Center
- **Substance Abuse**
  - Centerstone is a behavioral health service not-for-profit providing substance abuse and mental health services
  - Behavioral Health Alternatives
- **Justice Partners**
  - Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement/Legal and Related Organizations
  - County Corrections (including county/local probation and jails)
- **Mental Health**
  - Behavioral Health Alternatives
- **Health Services**
  - Illinois Department of Public Health
- **Education (including Early Childhood)**
  - County/Regional School District (two school districts)
- **Evaluation/Data Collection, Training**
  - Centerstone Research Institute
  - Advvara (IRB vendor)

## EVALUATION DESIGN

### **Outcome Study Design: Randomized Control Trial (RCT)**

The grantee's local evaluation has two components: an impact study and a process study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

### **Impact Study Design**

The grantee will use a RCT design to examine the impact of their RPG services among families from eight southern Illinois counties who are involved with the Illinois DCFS because of adult substance use and child safety and permanency issues. Members of the program group will receive the Strengthening Families Program. Members of the comparison group will receive the Nurturing Parenting Program for Families involved in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery and TF-CBT. Members of the program and comparison groups may receive any of the following Centerstone services depending on their specific needs: adult and youth substance use screenings and assessments, diagnosis, individual treatment plans, and treatment (or treatment referrals),

including medication assisted treatment; screenings and assessments for infant neonatal abstinence syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, newborn monitoring, health education for parents, and referrals to specialists for these disorders; referrals for adult mental health disorders and trauma; collaboration with school staff; referrals to reunification/ancillary support services such as drug-free housing or transportation; and 24/7 crisis intervention services. Services for both groups will last about 6 months (depending on family needs and treatment goals). The impact study will include 104 families, with 52 in the program group and 52 in the comparison group. The grantee will examine impacts in the following domains: permanency, safety, child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data and information collected by data collectors using standardized instruments. Evaluation staff will conduct data collection with standardized instruments for both the program and comparison groups. Data will be collected three times for each family: (1) when families begin services (at baseline), (2) about 16 to 20 weeks after baseline (at the end of services), and (3) 12 months after families began services.

### **Process Study Design**

In the process study, the grantee will examine project implementation, fidelity to the program models, and partner capacity for interagency collaboration. Data sources include observations, self-assessments, administrative data, and project management information services data.

## **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES**

Establishment of the Advisory Council—including participating family- and child-serving community-based organizations, DCFS, and community stakeholders—will provide input, guidance, and oversight of the project, and development of a sustainability plan. Flourish’s evaluation will result in the development and dissemination of a thoroughly documented service model for replication across the state, including effectiveness of model and cost. Flourish leadership and Advisory Council will use goal accomplishment and evaluation reports to develop a strong case for securing additional funding streams. Services will be increasingly supported by reimbursements through Medicaid, Medicare, and other third-party funders, and project staff will seek funding via local, state, and federal sources, including block grant funds, to support services. The inclusion of an implementation and sustainability manager will monitor ongoing sustainability activities, initiated in the first year of the grant, including identification of services already eligible as a billable service, adherence to reimbursement requirements, and ensuring sustainability of reimbursable services. The regional collaborative infrastructure will link to financing mechanisms and funding streams to guarantee project sustainability beyond the 3-year grant period.

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